

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 SP-03 NEA-10 FEA-02

L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 DRC-01

IOE-00 CPR-02 SY-03 USSS-00 USIA-15 OIC-04 PA-04 EB-11

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1496

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 348

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 1946

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, UNGA, LI (TOLBERT, WILLIAM R., JR.)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S ATTENDANCE AT SPECIAL UNGA;

HIS DESIRE TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT NIXON

REFS: (A) MONROVIA 1932; (B) MONROVIA 1931

1. AMBASSADOR EMMETT HARMON, A MEMBER OF LIBERIAN DELEGATION TO SPECIAL UNGA SESSION, CAME BY MORNING OF APRIL 4 TO GIVE ME HIS IMPRESSIONS OF LIBERIAN PREPARATIONS FOR SPECIAL UNGA. HARMON SAID THAT TOLBERT HAD BEEN PLACED UNDER EXTREME PRESSURE BY BOUMEDIENE TO ATTEND AND SPEAK AT SPECIAL UNGA. TOLBERT RELUCTANT BUT FINALLY AGREED, AFTER WHICH GOL THROUGH SERIES OF SPECIAL ENVOYS ATTEMPTED PERSUADE OTHER CHIEFS OF STATE TO ATTEND. HARMON FEELS TOLBERT BEING USED BY BOUMEDIENE. HE HAS TOLD TOLBERT: (A) NOTHING OF GREAT SUBSTANTIVE SIGNIFICANCE LIKELY EMERGE FROM SHORT SPECIAL SESSION; (B) GOL SHOULD NOT DEPART FROM ITS TRADITIONAL MODERATE POSITION BUT SHOULD ADOPT CONSTRUCTIVE STANCE WHILE SPEAKING FOR NEEDS OF NON-OIL PRODUCERS SOUTH OF SAHARA. I SAID USG APPROACHED THIS SESSION IN A PROBLEM SOLVING FRAME OF MIND; WE BELIEVE THAT TRADITIONAL THIRD-COUNTRIES, NON-ALIGNED RHETORIC OR POLITICAL POSTURING NOT LIKELY ADVANCE MATTERS. PROBLEMS WERE SO COMPLEX AND
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INTER RELATED THAT THEIR SOLUTION REQUIRED BEST COOPERATIVE

EFFORTS OF DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ALIKE. HARMON AGREED AND SAID HE WOULD UNDERLINE THESE CONSIDERATIONS WITH PRESIDENT TOLBERT PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE.

2. HARMON CONFIRMED THAT TOLBERT GOT NO FIRM COMMITMENTS OF AID OR OF RELIEF FROM SPIRALING OIL PRICES IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH CHIEFS OF STATE OF ALGERIA, SAUDI ARABIA AND LIBYA. IN FACT, ONLY AGREEMENTS FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION SIGNED WERE THOSE WITH LIBYA AND THEN ONLY BECAUSE OF DOGGED INSISTENCE OF FINANCE MINISTER STEPHEN TOLBERT THAT PRESIDENT BRING HOME SOMETHING CONCRETE. HARMON DOES NOT BELEIVE THAT ANY SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS OF FINANCIAL AID WILL FLOW FROM THESE AGREEMENTS. IN FACT, HE SAID IT IS ANOTHER ILLUSTRATION OF STEPHEN TOLBERT'S EFFORTS TO DOMINATE ANY PROCEEDINGS AND HE FEARED STEPHEN TOLBERT WOULD PLAY SAME FORCEFUL (BUT NOT NECESSARILY ENLIGHTENED) ROLE AT SPECIAL UNGA.

3. HARMON SAID PRESIDENT TOLBERT DESIRED MOST STRONGLY TO HAVE A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIXON, EVEN THOUGH IT WERE VERY BRIEF AND A NATURE OF A COURTESY CALL. PRESIDENT TOLBERT HAS NO SPECIFIC ISSUES TO RAISE BUT WISHED TO INFORM PRESIDENT NIXON OF THE RESULTS OF HIS RECENT VISITS TO KEY ARAB COUNTRIES AND PROSPECTS FOR SOME ARAB HELP TO AFRICAN NON-PRODUCERS. I MERELY INDICATED THAT I WOULD REPORT TOLBERT'S DESIRE FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT.

4. AMBASSADOR HARMON LEAVES EVENING APRIL 4 ON PAA-185 FOR NEW YORK. HE INTENDS GETTING TOGETHER WITH AMBASSADOR PEAL IMMEDIATELY AFTER ARRIVAL. IN VIEW HIS EXPERIENCE IN UN AFFAIRS, HIS MODERATE STANCE AND HIS HELPFULNESS TO THIS MISSION, IT WOULD BE MOST WORTHWHILE FOR USUN MAKE EARLY CONTACT AND TO BRIEF HIM FULLY ON U.S.POSITION.
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